



State Representative Sonny Googins



Dear Friends,

It has been an incredible honor and privilege to serve as your state representative. Earlier this year, I announced my plans to retire from the legislature after completing six terms proudly representing Glastonbury in the General Assembly. As I move on to other endeavors, I will always fondly think of the wonderful people of Glastonbury, and many treasured memories. The friends I've made at the legislature and in Glastonbury will last a lifetime.

As I am retiring, this will be my last annual legislative report. It highlights some of the action the legislature took during the past session. If you should have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. I will still be here until January! I wish you all the best for the future.

Sincerely,



State Representative

SONNY GOOGINS

Proudly Serving the 31st District

Glastonbury ★ Connecticut

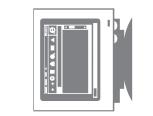
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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
SONNY GOOGINS
Proudly Serving the 31st District
Glastonbury ★ Connecticut



State Representative Sonny Googins

2006 Annual Legislative Report



The State Budget

By the end of this session the General Assembly had approved a \$16 billion state budget that represented a compromise between legislative Democrats, Governor M. Jodi Rell and legislative Republicans.

The deal includes a phased-out repeal of the corporate surcharge, which many of my colleagues and I have fought for since the beginning of the legislative session. It also includes a number of tax cuts for business which will help improve the economy and increase jobs in the state, such as a phase out of the property tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment.

We also increased deposits in the Rainy Day Fund that boosts the fund to \$800 million. The budget deal also fully funds the Teachers' Pension Fund with an additional \$245 million. The final budget is also under the constitutionally mandated spending cap in both years.



Rep. Googins works on legislation on the floor of the House of Representatives.



Underage Drinking

The General Assembly finally passed legislation I cosponsored for years that prohibits individuals from allowing minors to possess alcohol on private property.

Protecting Open Space

This year I supported a measure that requires the State Department of Environmental Protection to conduct an environmental review of unneeded state land if it may have significant natural resources or a public recreational value. This legislation provides an opportunity to recapture certain parcels of state land if they have value.

Grants for Glastonbury

I was pleased to work for a number of grants for the town of Glastonbury. Recently our town was awarded \$500,000 in STEAP funds to assist in the completion of our Riverfront Park. Also, we received over \$4 million in funding for the East Hartford - Glastonbury magnet school.

Glastonbury received \$4,690,776 in the state budget this year, an increase of over \$91 thousand from the previous year.



Rep. Googins and guests visit Governor M. Jodi Rell after her "state of the State Address." Shown left to right are Suzanne Galvin, Chair of the Glastonbury Republican Town Committee; Susan Karp, Chair of the Glastonbury Town Council; Lorraine Marchetti, Vice-Chair of the Glastonbury Board of Education, and Rep. Googins.



For Seniors/Veterans

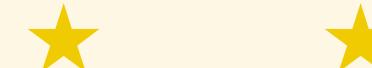
A new law allows towns to freeze property taxes on homes owned by people age 70 or older. Homeowner-companion agencies must now register with the Department of Consumer Protection and employees must undergo background checks. Legislation will protect jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as a natural disaster, just as they would if called up for national service.

Breast Cancer Screening

In April I voted in favor of a bill that changes when health insurance policies must provide coverage for a comprehensive ultrasound screening of an entire breast or breasts for a woman. This expands coverage we passed last year, and is a critical step toward assuring proper screening of women who are at an elevated risk of breast cancer. Early detection is critical in cases of breast cancer.



Rep. Googins takes the Speaker's dais for floor debate as Honorary Speaker, following the announcement of her impending retirement.



Transportation

The traffic congestion Connecticut has endured not only creates annoying commutes, but it kills jobs and the economy. This year the General Assembly committed \$2.3 billion to expand rail services and improve Connecticut's highways roads and waterways.

Jobs for the 21st Century

This year I supported a jobs bill that aims at improving Connecticut's stagnant economy, and increasing jobs in the state, creating incentives for business and job growth. I've promoted job training initiatives for a workforce that meets state needs.

CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS WORK 132 DAYS OUT OF THE YEAR JUST TO PAY THEIR TAXES

Connecticut



May 12

National Avg.



Apr. 26

Alabama



Apr. 11

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. Jun. Jul.
"Lowering your tax burden is a top priority of mine."